

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, July 20, 1784,  
with Cipher, Code Number 6, from Thomas Jefferson  
and James Monroe Correspondence, Transcribed  
and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt, Manuscript Division,  
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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

King George. July 20. 1784.

Dear Sir

By Mr. Short I have the pleasure to forward you a more complete cypher in which we will correspond in future. He will find you, I hope, safely arriv'd in Paris & recover'd from the fatigues of your voyage & situated with Miss Patsy agreeably to your wish. In my letters from Annapolis I inform'd you of the latter proceedings of Congress & as I address'd them to Boston hope you rec'd them. Mr. Madison, whom I saw lately at Richmond, will give you the proceedings of the Assembly; three important objects have, I find, imploy'd their attention; the enlarging the powers of Congress, regulation of the commerce of the State & the recommendations of Congress under the treaty. Their resolutions in the first instance I enclos'd to you for Boston. In the 2d, they have establish'd a port on each river, to wh. They have restricted the vessels of foreign nations in the reception & unlading of their cargoes. They have defer'd the commencmt. of the operation of this law to the expiration of two years in the expectation that the craft necessary for the river carriage will be prepar'd by that time, so that from the commencmt. it may effect no injury to the people; but this I think a visionary hope. Those who otherwise wou'd. turn their attention to the subject, will think it too incertain an event to calculate on, & the operation of the

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law will find not a single vessel, prepar'd to supply the exigency it will require; from this circumstance, I fear a repeal will be attempted; I hope, however, it will fail & that this is only a step to a more wise & mature system of policy. If too many ports are admitted will the objects of the State be attain'd, or on the contrary will they not serve as subsidiary to Baltimore & the other towns on the continent who aim at our trade? Will it not be an exertion to promote their interest by collecting the produce of the State to particular ports, & thereby throw it more particularly into the vortex of Baltimore, since the operation of each

town will be confin'd to the river on wh. it is plac'd? It appears to me unwise to attempt erecting more than one great town at a time, since they will fail altogether while the exertion is beyond the means necessary to effect it. You will inform me under the treaties which subsist what regulations we may make that will at least make the advantages arising from our intercourse with those nations reciprocal.. If Spn., for instance, takes off her duties or makes them lighter on any produce of these States, then the other powers with whom we are or may be connected, they refusing us such privileges, can we & is it consistent with the usage of nations to give her reciprocal advantages here, the treaties between us & each power being, as that with France, on the principle of the right of the "most favor'd nation." rdquo;I make the enquiry more for information of the usage of nations than from any difficulty abt. the usual import of the words. Hath there been any investigation at the instance of any nation that you can find, of the extent of the sense of these words & of the obligations enter'd into under this form? Is our tobo. restrain'd in its sale in the first instance to the farmers genl. alone, & if this is the case is it not contrary to the spirit of the treaty? Shod. not our ministers be instructed to attempt its removal? You will be so kind as give me every information upon these subjects you think necessary, for perhaps my inquiries may not extend to every object upon wh. I shod. be informd. I beg of you also to turn my attention to those other great objects which in yr. opinion it shod. be applied, for a variety of points may arise to you when you look back on our country, in wh. our policy may no doubt be much improv'd. The laws prohibiting the executions

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for recoevery of Brith. debts are still in force. Ad address or some thing of that nature is made to Congress upon that subject, desiring their sense of the propriety of keeping them in form until satisfaction is made for the removal of the negroes from N. York. Of this, however, Mr. Short will give you further information. The day after to-morrow I sit out upon the route thro

the western country. I have chang'd the direction & shall commence for the westward upon the No. river by Albany &c. I shall pass through the lakes, visit the posts, & come down to the Ohio & thence home. This route will necessarily take me all the time during the recess of Congress. Of course I shall not be able to attend the committee of the States agreeably to engagement made between my colleagues, & to accommodate wh. generally, a resolution pass'd authorizing such relief to each other. The first act of the committee was to adjourn to the 26 since wh. I believe they have not met. Mr. Short will inform you of the result of Colo. Harvie's negotiation for me with Marks for his land. My failure in this instance will not abate my desire to effect a settlement in that country, it will still form one of my capital objects & will put it in execution as soon as possible. I had hopes of receiving a copy of yr. answer to the queries of Mr. Marbois, but suspect you fail'd in obtaining yr. desire in Phila. Will you effect it in Paris upon terms agreeable to yr. wishes? I shall certainly be in Trenton on the 30th of October. In the trip I shall take, I may perhaps acquire a better knowledge of the posts wh. we shod. occupy, the cause of the delay of the evacuation of the Brith. troops, the temper of the Indians tow'd. us, as well as of the soil, waters & in genl. the natural view of the country. Capt'n. Denny, whom we saw at Annapolis, accompanies me. I am sensible of the fatigue I shall undergo but am resolv'd to sustain it. I am with my best wishes for yr. health yr. affectionate friend & servant.

Jas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).